

Lee County Fire Chief's
STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES

Subject: RAPID INTERVENTION TEAM (RIT)

Chief: _____ **Operations Chief:** _____ **Training/Safety:** _____

SOG #10

Applies To: ALL PERSONNEL

Revision Date:

Page 1 of 5

Effective Date:

PURPOSE:

The purpose of a Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) is to provide a dedicated team of emergency personnel ready to rescue emergency personnel who become trapped in a burning structure or other special hazard. This has been written in accordance with NFPA and OSHA standards and regulations.

SCOPE:

The RIT will be established on all emergency incidents where emergency personnel are engaged in activities where an IDLH atmosphere is present or members are subject to special hazards, or at the determination of the incident commander.

DEFINITIONS:

Initial Rapid Intervention Crew (IRIC): A minimum of two (2) fully-equipped personnel on site, in a ready state, for immediate rescue of injured or trapped emergency personnel. The IRIC's sole purpose is to locate and remove lost, disoriented, medically disabled, trapped or entangled emergency personnel until a full Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) can be established.

Rapid Intervention Team (RIT): An established RIT should be a minimum of four (4) trained personnel during an offensive or complex emergency operation.

The difference between an IRIC and an established RIT is that RIT is an actual assigned function under the ICS, requires an appropriate number of personnel for the situation, includes appropriate equipment dedicated to the team, and critical procedures pertaining to on-scene organization and preparation.

RIT Assignment:

The RIT should be considered a dedicated assignment for any offensive fire operation or complex operation. If the RIT is assigned for Special Operations, see RIT SOG's for Special Operations. Assigned personnel should be trained in RIT deployment procedures. It is at the discretion of the IC to assign more than one RIT for more complex incidents and be staged at different locations.

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Page 2 of 5

Revision Date:
Effective Date:

RIT Equipment:

The RIT will stage all equipment on a designated yellow tarp for the best tactical advantage for safety and rapid deployment (*usually near the Command Post*). The equipment staged should include, but not be limited to, thermal imaging camera, portable radios, hand lights, search ropes/with carabiners, webbing, forcible entry tools, SCBA's with quick fill tubes (if available), power saws, extrication equipment, medical equipment including oxygen, backboard, or stokes basket and SAED. Other equipment may also be staged depending on the emergency operations taking place. A hose line should be stretched and flaked for ease of deployment. A survey of the scene for larger resources, such as aerial apparatus placement and a variety of ground ladders, should be accomplished.

It is important that Department members understand that RIT equipment staged on the yellow tarp is for their use only and not available for other assignments.

Staging:

RIT-IRIC team will be established and placed at a strategic location on the incident by direction of the officer in charge.

Responsibilities:

All Members: It will be the responsibility of all members to exercise the appropriate control dictated by his/her rank in the implementation of this Operational Guideline.

Incident Commander (IC): The IC will assign RIT duties, identify the location of the Command Post (CP) and determine when the RIT is deployed for rescue. If the RIT is deployed for an emergency personnel rescue, the IC will call for additional resources at once.

- Upon deploying the RIT. The Operations officer, RIT and Emergency Personnel/unit reporting "**May-Day**" will operate on originally assigned TAC Channel. The Incident Commander will move all other incident operations to a different tactical channel and assign a new operations officer for the initial incident operations.
- Establish an additional RIT team for the initial operations.

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Page 3 of 5

Revision Date:
Effective Date:

Rapid Intervention Team: The RIT will monitor the designated Tac channel that the interior crews are working on. This is imperative as it will assure that any "May Day" radio traffic will be heard. The Rapid Intervention Team shall be prepared to go into service at a moments notice. RIT activity at the emergency scene should be consistent with their mission: *Locating and removing lost, injured or trapped emergency personnel.*

RIT Officer: Immediately report to the Command Post and get a briefing from the IC to determine who the team should report to, where the team should stage and what radio frequency that Operations is working off. The Officer will take full advantage of the information from pre-fire plans, if available. At the Command Post the RIT Officer should gather the following information:

- Location of all crews and their assignments
- On-site hazards
- Structure fire
 - Burning time
 - Building construction and age
 - Pertinent information pertaining to the building
 - Extent of fire

The RIT Officer shall brief all RIT members with above information at the Staging area so a verbal incident action plan can be determined.

- Conduct a 360° survey of the fire building or hazard location to gather the following information:
 - Occupancy size and possible rescue concerns
 - Building construction to determine tools needed
 - Impact glass windows
 - Structural instability and collapse hazards
 - Fire progress
 - Access and egress points
 - Access obstacles
 - Note firefighter locations
 - Report any uncontrolled utilities

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Page 4 of 5

Revision Date:
Effective Date:

When working multiple floors, the RIT Officer shall alert Operations as to whether ladders or a second means of egress are in place or not so that this information can be passed on to interior crews.

RIT Team Members: Report directly to the RIT Officer and receive information as listed above. Team members are responsible for the following:

- Monitor fire ground radio communications
- Place tool/equipment staging tarp in designated location
- Make plans regarding access and egress points
- Review specific rescue scenarios
- Determine member functions if deployed
- Personnel must maintain a high level of readiness by having full protective clothing on with SCBA.
- Make sure all equipment is in working order (TIC, power tools, etc.)
- If fire operations are being conducted on a second or third floor, ground ladders shall be placed in as many window openings as possible in the escape angle.

Perform duties as assigned by the IC (*any duties assigned to the RIT shall be duties that if stopped will not effect fire ground operations or firefighter safety*).

Upon deployment for trapped or missing emergency personnel, the RIT will continue search and rescue operations until:

- The missing or trapped firefighter(s) are located and removed
- The RIT is relieved
- The RIT is ordered to terminate the operation.

RIT Assignments:

Entering the Building for Rescue:

- **The RIT Officer will ensure that proper, initial equipment, is secured and taken in with the RIT Team. Additional equipment needed for rescue operations, if necessary, will be called for at the direction of the RIT Officer.**

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Page 5 of 5**

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Rescue Operation:

Once the downed emergency worker is found, the RIT Officer will give direction and make appropriate team decisions.

The following procedures are to be considered:

- Silence PASS device on victim
- All team members to simultaneously stop breathing for a moment to determine if victim is breathing
- Evaluate amount of remaining air in victims cylinder if possible
- Evaluate any break in the integrity of the air supply (face mask, regulator, etc.)
- Rectify any air supply issues (attach to supplied air, replace mask, replace regulator)
- Evaluate for entrapment
- Determine if extra crews are needed to assist
- Determine if special tools or equipment needs to be brought in to scene.

*Extra crews and personnel with tools can follow search line directly to the scene.

Exiting the Building with Victim:

- The RIT Officer will determine the most appropriate means of egress. (Door, window, etc.).

Company Officers: Will ensure that all members are familiar with the duties of the RIT.

NOTE: In the event of deployment of the RIT, the IC must call for additional resources, maintain fire ground control, support RIT operations and continue fire suppression activities.